

Public opinion the Canada and the U.S.: Contours & foundations

Matthew Wright, University of British Columbia and

Abstract

Relatively little is known about what native-born citizens in immigrant-receiving democracies think about what kinds of cultural accommodations are owed to new immigrants or why. This paper leverages a recent survey of Americans and Canadians in order to answer four broadly descriptive questions on the topic: 1) How supportive are people of policies designed to foster immigrants' cultural identity, and does this support vary depending on the policy in question? 2) Do people tend to lump attitudes on these policies together or differentiate sharply between them? 3) How much do people appear to differentiate their level of support by the nature of the immigrants in question and, in particular, do we see any sign of group-centrist motivations? 4) How do these patterns vary across political contexts?

Biography

Matthew Wright studies political psychology, typically through an empirical and comparative lens. He wants to understand where peoples' political identities and core values come from, and how they go on to influence attitudes about immigrants, immigration policy, and diversity. His work on these topics and others has appeared in *American Politics Review*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Election Law Journal*, the *Journal of European Public Policy*, *Psychological Science*, *Political Studies*, *International Migration Review*, *Political Psychology*, and *Perspectives on Politics* among others. He has published two books, *Immigration and the American Ethos* (with Morris Levy) and *Immigration in the Court of Public Opinion* (with Morris Levy and Jack Citrin).